MSU Extension in Roosevelt County
Making a Difference

All universities engage in research and teaching, but land-grant universities like Montana State University have a third critical mission – Extension. Extension means reaching out and “extending” resources, solving public needs with university resources through non-formal, non-credit programs.

Montana State University Extension is an educational resource dedicated to improving the quality of people’s lives by providing research-based knowledge to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of families, communities, and agricultural enterprises. MSU Extension offers university resources for all Montanans to explore, even if they never set foot on campus. We provide access to useful information and expert knowledge via workshops, demonstrations, community meetings, publications, videos, the Internet and other learning opportunities. Extension links a network of MSU faculty, topic specialists on the MSU Bozeman campus and our Roosevelt County agents, to the people.

The Roosevelt County Extension staff is proud to provide services in the following areas:

- 4-H Youth Development
- Agriculture and Horticulture
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Community Development

Welcome to Roosevelt County
Roosevelt County encompasses 2,385 square miles of Montana’s land, has a population of approximately 11,125 and averages 4 people per square mile. The county seat is Wolf Point and was founded in 1919. Other incorporated cities include: Bainville, Brockton, Culbertson, Froid and Poplar. The Fort Peck Community College is located in Poplar.

County Tri-funded Support
Programs of the MSU Extension Service are funded cooperatively through a legal partnership among federal, state, and county governments. Research-based education and programming that integrates learning, discovery and engagement to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of individuals, families, and communities would not be possible without this unique funding structure. Quality MSU Extension programming in Roosevelt County is successful due to local financial support from the Roosevelt County Commissioners and community involvement and support. Community input and advisory councils provide ways to identify major issues and plan programs important to the residents of Roosevelt County.
4-H Members Sew for Others
Sewing and textiles project members learned basic sewing skills and techniques while making a teddy bear to donate to their community. Along with participating in learn-by-doing projects and service learning, additional life skills such as decision making and concern for community were also developed.

Twenty-five 4-H leaders and members from Roosevelt, Richland and Sheridan Counties attended the 14th annual tri-county sewing event. Each member constructed a six-pocket bag, sunglass case, and soft stuffed teddy bear for a child in need.

During an evaluation of camp, participants reported that they learned how to wind a bobbin, pivot with the needle down, how to sew on the curve, how to work with batting, and the importance of keeping your fingers away from the needle. In addition to learning basic sewing skills, 4-H members were able to make new friends and complete three sewing projects to enter in their local county fair.

4-H Campers were off to the “races.”

4-H Camping
4-H camps provide positive youth development in an outdoor setting. Programming offers campers a greater chance to learn, develop life skills, and form attitudes that will help them to become self-directing and productive members of society. Roosevelt County 4-H members have the opportunity to participate in a multi-county 4-H camp that includes Daniels, Richland, Sheridan, and Valley Counties.

Teen counselors are selected and as a group determine the camp program. They also play an important role at 4-H camp, being responsible for leading groups of campers and serving as cabin leaders. During the camp, agents and adult volunteer leaders serve in support roles to the teen leaders and fill in as needed to provide educational programs.

4-H camping offers young people the opportunity to explore educational activities and classes such as outdoor cooking skills, environmental science, science and engineering, fiber arts, leadership and recreation. The 11 counselors and 13 adult volunteers were able to practice a wide variety of skills including leadership, communication, conflict resolution, problem solving, decision making, teamwork, and concern for others during the three-day camp. The relationships, the natural environment, and the carefully-planned programs at camp can be life changing for a young person.

4-H camps embody the slogan “learn by doing” through 4-H’s experiential learning method of “do, reflect and apply.” Youth are engaged and involved from the time they arrive until the time they depart. Area county Extension agents and volunteers work diligently to design programs that are educational, inclusive, rewarding and fun.

Camper surveys indicate that camp helped them want to try new things; the campers reported making new friends; and most campers learned at least some new skills at camp that they will use at home. They also learned to complete jobs on time that they were responsible for.

This year’s 4-H Camp theme was “Rome on the Range.”
Froid Field Day

The Froid Field Day, held in June at the USDA Froid Research Farm, is an annual event held in conjunction with MSU Extension, Roosevelt and Sheridan County Conservation Districts and USDA-ARS Northern Prairie Research Laboratory (NPARL). Thirty-three individuals attended this year’s field day. Attendees were presented with updates on research being conducted at the farm, demonstrations on subsurface drip irrigation systems, soil sampling techniques for soil analysis, cross slot drills, and classes on weed identification and control. Soil analysis allows for informed decisions on fertilization needs to maximize production without over-fertilizing, saving money and improving sustainability.

Swank Variety Tour

The thirty-fifth annual Swank Variety Tour, held at the Swank Family Farm located north of Poplar, was attended by 108 people from the surrounding area. The variety tour provides the Eastern Agriculture Research Center, under the direction of Chengci Chen, a way to familiarize producers with different aspects, including yield, test weight and protein, of newer varieties of spring wheat and durum wheat. Understanding how different varieties perform under conditions encountered in northeast Montana allows the producer to make informed decisions on which varieties work best.

Tatyana Rand of the USDA-ARS NPARL conducted a demonstration on the proper technique to sweep for insects, and a workshop on “Enhancing Beneficial Insects to Control Crop Pests” at the variety tour. Correctly identifying insect pests allows for targeted control of pests, reducing pesticide cost and impact on the environment. Enhancing beneficial insects additionally decreases costs and promotes sustainable agriculture by reducing insecticide use.

Background and Control of Narrow-Leaf Hawksbeard in Crops and Rangeland

A workshop on “Background and Control of Narrow-Leaf Hawksbeard in Crops and Rangeland” was held in Culbertson. Forty-six people from six counties and two states attended to learn about Narrow-Leaf Hawksbeard. Producers were provided with current research on control of Narrow-Leaf Hawksbeard and education on identifying the plant at different stages of development. This weed, which is related to dandelions, is a growing problem in Northeast Montana and can be problematic in no-till cropping systems, hay crops and in CRP. Early identification is critical for control of the spread of this weed, since most herbicides are not effective past the rosette stage of maturity. Additionally, many control methods cannot be used in pulse crops, which are important crops economically to the area, once the crop has emerged.

Bovine Connection

After a three-year hiatus, the Bovine Connection 2016 was held in Culbertson. This year’s program offered area cattle producers and affiliated industries with strategies on culling, the new Veterinary Feed Directives (which go into place on January 1, 2017), heifer management for longevity and tactics for increasing profits on the ranch. Keynote speaker Dave Pratt has spoken throughout the world on how ranchers can increase profitability. Forty-eight people from Northeast Montana and Northwest North Dakota attended. All attendees evaluated found the information helpful and would like to see the Bovine Connection continued, while greater than ninety-four percent were extremely likely or somewhat likely to use the information received in future decision making.
Contact Us

Montana State University Extension is an ADA/EO/AA Veteran’s Preference Employer and provider of educational outreach.

Board Development Training
MSU Extension in Daniels, Richland, Roosevelt and Sheridan counties sponsored a board development training for all members of local boards. The training was conducted in four different locations by Dan Clark and Blake Christensen of the MSU Extension Local Government Center in Bozeman.

Workshop participants were able to describe and clarify many of the complex issues confronting boards and board memberships. The training also introduced board members and interested citizens to various concepts and techniques for successful board meetings.

Participants gained knowledge in Principles of Good Governance, Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members, Montana Open Meeting Laws, Executive Session or Closing a Meeting, Montana’s Code of Ethics and Meeting Minutes through this interactive workshop session.

Knowledgeable and engaged leaders are a critical component of strong, healthy, vibrant communities. Research shows that successful communities invest in the development of their people. An effective board member can provide essential leadership to their community.

Reducing the Spread of Germs through Hand Washing
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), handwashing is one of the best ways to avoid getting sick and spreading germs, and to prevent both infectious diseases and foodborne illnesses. The Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent educated Culbertson third grade students and teachers on the importance of handwashing and how to properly wash hands to reduce their risk of infectious and communicable diseases.

On the same day as the presentation, the Roosevelt County Health Department released a news article informing the residents of the reports of the Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease in multiple schools and daycares. As a result of the program, the third grade students improved their knowledge of proper handwashing technique. Teachers indicated that their students wash their hands more often since participating in the program. Prevention of disease in a school environment reduces absenteeism and may decrease lost time from work and lost wages for parents/guardians who must stay home with sick youth.